



## **NEWS FROM NOAA**

**NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

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### **NOAA Fisheries Scientist Wins Prestigious Presidential Award**

Dr. Mark Scheuerell, a fisheries biologist with NOAA Fisheries' Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), received a 2006 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) today in a White House ceremony.

This year is especially notable for NOAA, as it is the third year in a row that a scientist from the NWFSC's laboratory in Seattle, WA has won this prestigious award. The PECASE is the nation's highest honor for investigators at the early stages of promising research careers. Dr. Scheuerell is among 58 researchers nationwide to receive the award this year, and among two from NOAA.

"Mark's award continues an ongoing record of cutting-edge science emerging from the Northwest Fisheries Science Center," said Usha Varanasi, NWFSC's science and research director.

"We are honored to have someone of Dr. Scheuerell's extraordinary breadth and intellectual rigor here at the Montlake laboratory, and his research will help us greatly advance NOAA's commitment to ecosystem management," Varanasi said.

Scheuerell is recognized for his innovative and internationally-renowned research into salmon populations and ecosystem dynamics. He recently developed a forecasting model that demonstrated how ocean and climate conditions play a much larger role in the adult returns of Pacific salmon than previously believed. As a result, Dr. Scheuerell's work is significantly shaping the ongoing debate regarding the magnitude and management of anthropogenic impacts on salmon populations, such as harvest and hydropower systems along the Columbia River.

Dr. Scheuerell joined the NWFSC in 2003. Prior to that, he was a National Research Council post-doctoral researcher at the NWFSC and the University of Washington. Mark holds a B.S. in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin, an M.S. in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from Cornell University, and a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Washington.

The Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, established in 1996, honors the most promising researchers in the nation within their fields. Nine federal departments and agencies annually nominate scientists and engineers at the start of their independent careers whose work shows exceptional promise for leadership at the frontiers of scientific knowledge during the twenty-first century. Participating agencies award these talented scientists and engineers up to five years of funding to further their research in support of critical government missions.

The NWFSC conducts research to help conserve and manage living marine resources and their ecosystems in the Northeast Pacific Ocean. The center's research assists resource managers in making sound decisions that build sustainable fisheries, recover endangered and threatened species, sustain healthy ecosystems and reduce human health risks.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with our federal partners and nearly 60 countries to develop a global Earth observation network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA Fisheries: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>

Northwest Fisheries Science Center: <http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov>